

Local Foods Team
March 23, 2010
5:30-6:30

Members Present: Stu Silverstein, Angela Bouchard, Nancy Emery, Cindy Owings, Brenda Duplessie, Susan McKenzie, Michael Donihue, Ashley Alden, Robert Brogden, Stephen LaRochelle, Ann Beverage, Ellen Paul, Lyn Smith, Meg Richards, Linda Woods

1. Allocating Garden Plots on North Street
 - 12 beds; 5 have been paid for; 1 will go to the Homeless Shelter (to be maintained by the administrator hopefully)
 - Ellen will get the seeds from FEDCO.
 - Stu has been contacted by multiple people, but he needs the fee to guarantee them a plot. \$10 minimum donation; more accepted
 - Returnees can keep the bed they had.
 - Money to Matt Skehan at Waterville Parks & Rec.
 - No room for expansion at North St.
 - FEDCO donated soil amendments.
 - Gardens are to be exclusively organic.
 - Cindy will post the garden guidelines on the Yahoo site; Linda will post on Sustain Mid-Maine Coalition web site.
 - The garden shed will be available.
2. Moore Street Community Garden
 - First “real” neighborhood garden
 - Most residents think this is a great location. If complaints arise, they will be handled with care.
 - Concern about vandalism. Need to get community involvement by having neighbors have these plots as much as possible.
 - Stu will order building materials this week. Assembled at city garage on Western Ave. He will contact people via e-mail for assembly assistance.
 - 12 plots here as well.
 - Ellen will purchase landscape fabric at Marden’s. (Thank you, Ellen!)
 - Meg will donate earth worms. ☺
 - Allocation: first come; however, hoping these will go to people on the South End who live in the neighborhood.
 - Cindy suggests attending South End Association meeting. Cindy will canvas the neighborhood if needed.
 - There was discussion about whether the \$10 fee was too much, but the majority thinks a fee is crucial to show ownership.
 - Susan will ask Johnny’s for seed donations, and Ellen will ask FEDCO. Cindy suggested asking for vouchers.

3. Fencing

- Stu wonders if there should be fencing. Maybe minimal wooden fencing? This won't protect from vandalism, but it will set off both gardens.
- Since there is no money for fencing, Stu wonders if a company might donate materials.
- Matt Skehan might help. The city will do the work.
- Linda will contact Ware Butler about fencing. (need 28 X 53 feet; 162 running feet per garden)

4. Garden Maintenance

- If you are going to have a bed, it should look "spiffy."
- Please take care of your garden to set a good example for others.

5. Fund Raising & Financial Report

- Stu wanted to write a grant for small green houses and outdoor pizza oven at a community garden to give people a sense of community (like the garden in New York).
- Susan suggests we create a three year plan. How many more gardens? Where will they be? Should they include a place for gathering? Maybe at the next meeting Matt Shehan and Caragh Fitzgerald should be invited to attend, so a plan could be created.

6. Care Takers

- Each garden should have a steward to take responsibility for the overall quality of the garden.
- Robert questioned the role of the custodian. It was decided that posting on the web site if there is vandalism or concerns (watering, weeding, etc.) would be the assigned tasks.
- Caretaker should go at least once a week.
- Lyn & Stephen will be caretakers of North Street.
- It was decided to NOT take care of someone else's garden (unless asked).
- Ann wondered if KVCAP will have a garden on Moore St. Maybe s/he will be a caretaker?
- Robert and Meg will work together as caretakers.

7. Compost

- Cindy thinks the plots are small enough to have people bring the materials home. Not enough is produced at the garden site to compost.
- Ellen is taking a Master Gardening Class and agrees. Composting should not be part of the community garden plan.
- Stu thinks composting should be on hold.
- Mike said that Master Gardeners have to do a community service project. Maybe one of them will lead a workshop.

8. Cindy will take over as administrator of the Yahoo group. Stu will send e-mails about meetings. Linda will post the meetings on Facebook.

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, April 20 at 5:30** in Barrels.